

OLC RECORD COPY

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OLC # 78-2469

MPR

29 June 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting with HSCA Staffers

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1. The undersigned, in the company of [redacted] met with Messrs. Blakey, Cornwell, and Goldsmith yesterday for about two hours, starting at about 1600. After some preliminary bowing and scraping as to who would go first, I started.

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2. First, I passed to Mr. Blakey a package of papers prepared for release under FOIA, involving records of conversations with him in reference to a HSCA staff employee who did not meet all security criteria for work on this matter. I stated that we wanted to know if it gave him any problems; he undertook to let us know today.

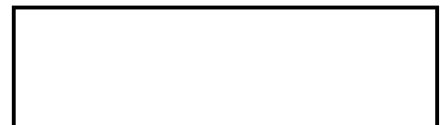
3. I reported that we had notified Mr. John McCone of the HSCA desire to interview him. I said that this had been done through Walter Elder, now with Resource Management Staff. Elder had been the DCI's Executive Assistant when McCone was Director, and was the channel through which Mr. McCone preferred to have contacts of this sort made. Elder had reported that Mr. McCone was departing his home for Seattle at the time of his telephone conversation with him, and that he had not heard further. I had spoken with Mr. Elder about dealing directly with the HSCA and gave them his telephone number [redacted]. Elder will keep us posted of developments.

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4. I stated that we are trying to look ahead to potential problems that can be resolved before the last minute. I asked specifically what plans they had for the public hearings in September, and what they would require of us. I specifically noted our interest in security considerations. Mr. Blakey said they have been thinking of it also, and he would come back to us on this in ten days. I replied this would give us plenty of time to address the problem.

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5. I noted that I had written asking for an up-to-date statement of the internal practice of access within the HSCA staff. I knew that they observed a need-to-know principle and it would be helpful to us to know who was approved for access to certain matters. After saying that everyone was cleared basically, with some having extra clearances, he said that the basic principle was by team. I noted that [redacted] defector issues involved sensitive matters, and who should be given access to this was useful information to us. He said he would check my written request--which he did not recall--but did not make any other commitments.

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6. I asked about the Beachhead agreement and the subsequent issue. He said that there had been no formal acknowledgement of the beachhead draft proposal, as it did not coincide with his understanding of what had been agreed. I said that there was only one reason for the undertaking, and that was support of the hearings, and that was what the agreement had attempted to record. I said that there are counterproposals on how to handle the materials for the [redacted] defector problems. I said that the given reason for wanting to hold those materials for writing was their concern we may learn of their thinking. Noting that convenience may be a consideration (Goldsmith had indicated this [redacted] in a conversation last week), I said we are prepared to install the two-combination safe up there, to hold the materials on those two subjects separately from the beachhead materials used relevant to hearings, per se. However, we did not intend to move additional Agency documents to the HSCA area. I tabled a draft statement of what we are prepared to do in this respect. I said that we were not proposing an arrangement to be negotiated, but are stating what we are prepared to do in an attempt to accommodate ourselves to their expressed problem, under the existing agreement, and this is our answer. If this was not acceptable, I said we could provide a four-drawer safe at CIA Headquarters with a combination set and controlled by them, for purposes of report writing, and they could move their material to that safe. Blakey said he would review the draft statement (copy attached) and let me know.

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7. Blakey said that things had changed since his early days. Full agreements had been reached quickly, then, but now things took longer. He noted the atmosphere, and also noted the "changing of the guards" (referring to my arrival). I said that one of the first things I noted

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in arriving on the scene was the atmosphere. I had given it considerable study, and felt that there was at least a problem of communications. I stated that it is clear to me that we say things to one another that are not heard or understood.

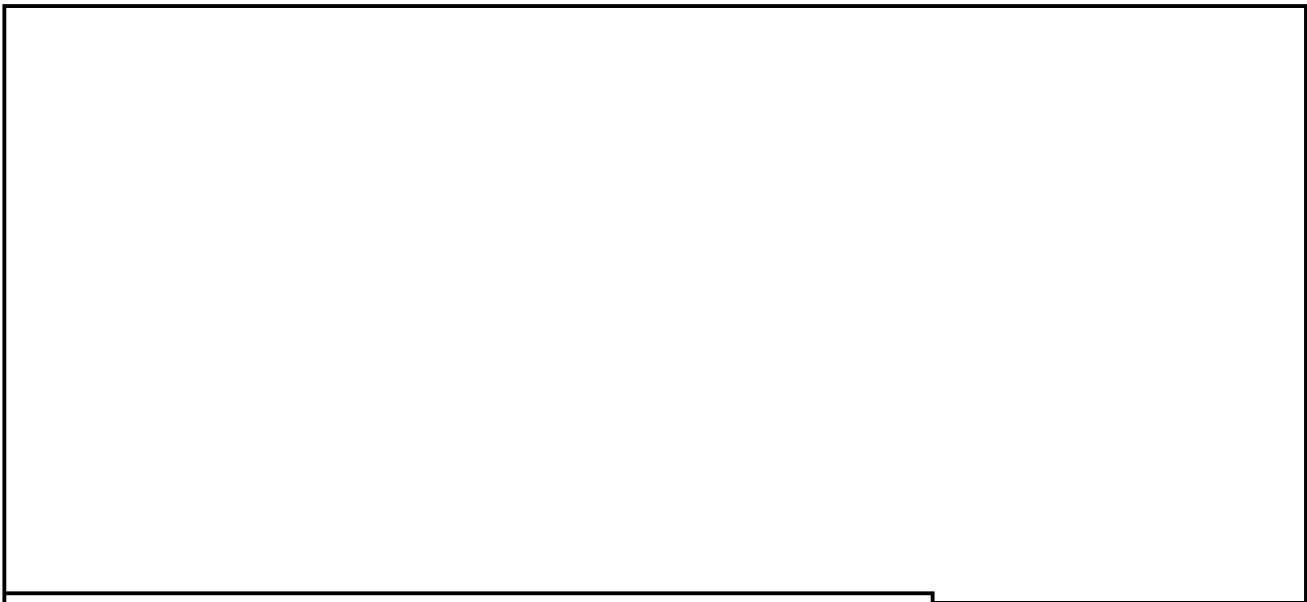
8. I undertook to tell them one thing I had done to plumb the matter. I said that I knew they tested hypotheses, and I had done the same thing. My experience was that there is a temptation on the part of some congressional staff investigators to plant versions of things in the minds of witnesses and then extract answers on the basis of that. I cited the Schweiker Report as containing some examples, as addressed directly in the 1977 CIA Task Force study on the Schweiker report. I said that as soon as they finished in

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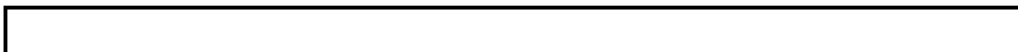


[redacted] I said that distrust of the Agency was implicit in their approach to things (and that they should understand that we are not cloned from one figure making up one gigantic conspiracy) and that this contributes to the communications gap. I said I had been participating in inspections for some fifteen years, running individual inquiries much of that time and directing a program for some five years. The biggest problem is to avoid the "avenging angel" approach and to realize that the investigator does not speak from Mount Olympus--my written instructions to inspectors so stated. Objectivity takes a lot, and its absence will affect relations.

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13. Mr. Blakey described the physical problem growing out of the failure to resolve the question of the beach-head issue. There are some six-eight depositions and three-four hearings. Transcripts, typewriter tapes and notes are held in the two-drawer safe. We observed that once the transcripts have been corrected and verified there is no practical reason for keeping either the typewriter tapes or steno notes. They agreed to check on this.

14. Mr. Blakey stated that he felt there was a steady

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deterioration in relationships. He observed that it had been from 1 June to 28 June on the priority requests, with no results. I said that our move and a new reporting system had delayed advising HSCA of results, which was not acceptable to him. He felt that it would be useful to have a common document showing status of reports, to which I demurred; I said that if we took time out to work on yet another log system (having just gotten one started for ourselves) we would further delay things. I wanted to work out the paper and then would be happy to give time and attention to a joint evaluation of where things stand. As he envisioned it, it would record date of request, date of completion and date of review.

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15. Mr. Blakey said there is a sense of outrage in the Committee [redacted] He felt that third party solution was viable and reasonable. The key to this statement is the point that he was speaking of Committee members, per se, and not just staff members.

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17. Blakey expressed some concern, not detailed, about the Office of Security standards being extended to other paper. [redacted]

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[redacted] We said we will inquire further into the procedures being followed, for we did not understand that anything other than this is being done.

18. Blakey described the problems of sanitizing notes. I had undertaken to see if notes (as distinguished from summaries) could be summarized; if so we would sanitize them rather than requiring summaries. Blakey mentioned

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[REDACTED]

from the unsanitized version of the 1977 Task Force Report, emphasizing the portions already deleted from the sanitized version; I had said he would have to do a summary. That could have been avoided by exercise of discretion. Goldsmith asked that we check the system for sanitizing.

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[REDACTED]

S. D. Breckinridge

Attachment

Distribution:

Orig - OLC Subject
1 - O/DDCI (H. Smith)
1 - DDO
1 - C/SE Division
1 - C/CI Staff
1 - DDA
1 - D/Security
1 - C/PCS/LOC
1 - [REDACTED]
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1 - [REDACTED]
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1 - [REDACTED]
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